Projects under Rural Tourism Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

281. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects identified in the State of Andhra Pradesh under the Rural Tourism Scheme sanctioned in the Tenth Plan;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the above projects have been given sanction only in 2003-04 *i.e.,* in the middle of the Tenth Plan;

(c) if so, the reason for delay in identifying the projects; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to complete the projects before the end of the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Based on proposals received from the State Government the Rural Tourism Projects have been sanctioned for following destinations of Andhra Pradesh:

(i) Pochampalli,

(ii) Konaseema,

(iii) Puttaparthi,

(iv) Srikalahasti,

(v) Chinchinada.

(b) to (d) The creation of infrastructure in rural areas having potential for tourism is being supported under the existing scheme of Destination Development. The funds are sanctioned and released based on the proposals received from the State/UT Governments. Thus, there has been no delay in identifying the projects. The implementation of the projects sanctioned is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. However, the monitoring of the implementation of sanctioned projects is done regularly to ensure timely completion.

Development of Buddhist Centres in Uttar Pradesh

282. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh propose to embark upon a major programme with the help of Japan Bank of